

Remarks

Claims 22, 24, and 34-41 were pending at the issuance of the instant Office Action. Claims 1-21, 23, and 25-33 remained cancelled. Claims 22, 24, and 36-41 have been amended. An amended sequence listing is submitted. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the instant application. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the aforementioned amendments or sequence listing.

1. Sequence Rules

The specification is objected for failing to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825. An amended sequence listing is being submitted, and claim 22 as well as the instant specification (see, p. 33, lines 15-21) have been amended to recite the sequence identifier as required (i.e. SEQ ID NO:104). Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

2. Claim Objections

Claim 22 is objected to because of a typographical error. The claim has been amended as to overcome the objection, and thus respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 §USC 112

(a) Claims 22, 24, and 34-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Patent Office asserts that it is not clear as to whether the 0-10 amino acids of X1 and X3 for the polypeptide of claim 22 are contiguous or non-contiguous. Furthermore, the Patent Office asserts that it is not clear whether Applicants intend that the 0-10 amino acids of X1 and X3 be contiguous from the terminus closest to its core sequence. Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the amino acids are contiguous and that the 0-10 amino acids of X1 and X3 are contiguous from the terminus closest to the core sequence. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

(b) Claims 24, and 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for an asserted lack

McDonnell, Boehnen, Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60606
312-913-0001

of enablement. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection. Applicants note that the amendment made is not a limiting amendment. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

(c) Claims 36, 37, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Patent Office asserts that the specification does not have support for the species cited in claims 36 and 37. The Applicants traverse this rejection, noting that explicit support for the limitations objected to by the Patent Office is provided, for example, in SEQ ID NOS:43 and 44. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, the claims have been amended to obviate the rejection. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended or as originally presented. Allowance of the claims is thereby respectfully solicited.

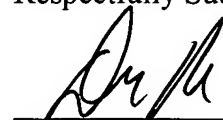
If it would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-2106.

Date:

11/27/06

Respectfully Submitted,

By:



David S. Harper
Reg. No. 42,636

McDonnell, Boehnen, Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3100
Chicago, IL 60606
312-913-0001